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have built at Bristol, in two parts, for the Australian rivers, I might defy a fleet of pirates, with which those seas are now more than ever infested; but in my poor, defenceless, crazy old prahu, I confess I look forward to the day of my return to Labuan with some little degree of anxiety.

I enclose a map of the country I traversed, for the information of the Society.

I remain, &c.,

C. A. C. DE CRESPIGNY, R.N., F.R.G.S.

The PRESIDENT.—I am glad to see you applaud this communication, because when our young friend, Lieut. De Crespigny, started upon his most perilous adventure he certainly undertook an enterprise which seemed almost Quixotic, for he received scarcely any assistance, and had merely permission to travel from the Admiralty. He had, however, the goodwill of the Society and our "Hints to Travellers." Now, without knowing anything of the interior of this vast country, of which, indeed, geographers were entirely ignorant, this Lieutenant of her Majesty's navy undertook to explore this remote region, and I think you will agree with me that he has exhibited the spirit of a true geographer, and that we ought to thank him heartily for his communication.

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3. *Account of an Expedition from Damara Land to the Ovampo, in search of the River Cunene.* By MESSRS. GREEN, HAHN, and RATH.

A LETTER from the Rev. C. Hugo Hahn, dated Barmen, October 7, 1857, has appeared in the 'Cape Town Commercial Advertiser,' describing the disastrous issue of a journey taken by himself and his colleague the Rev. Mr. Rath, together with Mr. F. Green, from Damara Land to the Ovampo, in search of the River Cunene. A published letter from the latter gentleman has also been received.

The missionaries pursued the track of Mr. Galton and Mr. Andersson as far as the Omoramba K'Omanbonde, where they left it and followed the river bed. After a few days they unexpectedly met with Mr. F. Green, who also wished to travel to the Cunene, and who informed them that the Omoramba ended abruptly, about 40 miles farther on, in a sandy soil. Consequently the two parties joined together and proceeded northwards. They ultimately fell in with another river-bed running N.W. (I believe the bearings to be magnetic) and they followed it. This brought them unexpectedly to a small lake situated about 32 miles E.S.E. of the Etosha salt pan. It was well stocked with flamingoes, pelicans, and other water-fowl, and its circumference was judged by Mr. Green to be 20 miles. It is called Onondova, is occupied by Bushmen tributary to the Ovampo, and is the frontier of the pasture-grounds of Ovampo land. Mes-

sengers were sent from Onondova to Nangoro, the King of the Ovampo, asking permission to visit him, and a travelling party of Ovampo were afterwards met, whose leader undertook to conduct them to his village, saying that it was his special office to introduce strangers.

On entering Ondonga, the fertile district of Ovampo land, they were met by one messenger after another, sent to them by Nangoro, and were received cordially and respectfully by the people. The caravan consisted of 4 waggons and 100 loose oxen, besides those yoked to the waggons, and about 30 Damaras. Just before reaching Nangoro's house their guide told them that the king desired their assistance in an expedition against a small neighbouring tribe with whom he was at war. At this request the missionaries were surprised and disgusted, and refused indignantly. The guide took it very quietly, and immediately allowed the subject to drop; but, from that moment, there was an evident change in their mutual relations. Nangoro would not see them for five days, and when he did so he gave them a cold reception and flatly refused to allow them to proceed farther. Mr. Green's account of their reception in Ovampo land is as follows :—

"The guide appearing a frank and honest fellow, we gladly placed ourselves under his directions; and as he was very communicative—added to which, a shrewd character—we became rather disposed in his favour. Upon our arrival at the chief's residence, he appeared to be a complete master of ceremonies; our messages, together with our presents, were delivered by him, and the custom of lighting our fire from that of the chief's hearth was strictly attended to and executed with a little skill of witchcraft by him. Our first present was returned, with a message that whatever we intended to give his royal highness, besides the beads, must be despatched at the same time. We became exceedingly annoyed at his impertinence, and told him very plainly that it was our custom to send presents in that way, and he must conform to it; that in sending the present back he did not appear to be on friendly terms with us, and we did not like it; that if we had anything further to give the chief, we should do so after we had the honour of seeing him, 'if his words were good for us;' if not, we should not give him anything more. I was determined not to allow myself to be imposed upon by this beggarly chief, which was also the same in Mr. Hahn's case. (Mr. Galton allowed himself and party to be sadly imposed upon by Nangoro, which induced the latter to make a like attempt upon us.) This returning of presents was at length amicably settled, but we had occasion to be exceedingly angry at the non-appearance of the chief; after we had been at his town for three days, and sent a message to inform him that we were not accustomed to wait the pleasure of a chief so long, and that if he did not come the following day we should inspan and ride away—also, that if he considered himself a great chief, then so did we. This message appeared rather to astonish his highness, and we shortly received a reply, that we must not imagine that it was done with any evil design, but it was a custom from the day he was born, and that he would come and pay his respects the ensuing day. He kept his promise, and we were not sorry when we were rid of the company of this fat old man."

Many incidents occurred while the party was encamped near Nangoro which aroused suspicion and great alarm, the Damaras were exceedingly afraid, and appeared in momentary expectation at all hours of the night and day of being surrounded by the Ovampo and massacred ; but no overt act was committed until the party prepared to leave :—

“On the morning of the 30th of July we yoked in the oxen at daylight, and made a start just as the sun was making its appearance above the horizon. To guard against their opposing our exit from Ondonga, our caravan was arranged as follows :—the loose cattle and donkeys were kept in advance, under an escort of all the available Damaras ; after which came the four waggons, that of Mr. Hahn bringing up the rear. As I still retained a horse, I was mounted, and continued with the cattle in advance. We had not ridden many hundred yards when a party of the Ovampo came running from the direction of the chief's village ; one of the sons of the latter asked both Mr. H. and myself if we were going, to which we replied that we were ; shortly after, the ‘war cry’ resounded on all sides. Some made a rush forward for the road to bar our progress.”

Mr. Hahn went unarmed to one of Nangoro's sons whom he recognised in the crowd and expostulated with him. This had a slight effect in checking the demonstration, but shortly after there was a cry, and Nangoro's son had driven his assegai through the back of one of the Damaras ; the poor fellow dropped, but as he fell he fired off both barrels of his gun, killing an elder son of Nangoro and another man, besides wounding his murderer. This was the critical moment. Mr. Green says—

“I rode forward to meet one man, more daring than the rest, who was stealthily approaching with his javelin quivering in his hand ; I suddenly dismounted, and, whilst he sat thinking to escape the bullet, with a well-directed and steady aim I shot him ; and the words ‘blood for blood’ rested on my lips. It was the first fellow-creature I had ever killed. There remained nothing more but to fight for my life, and that of the people I had brought into danger—and I was determined to sell it dearly.”

About noon the Ovampo had desisted, and Mr. Hahn having most fortunately heard, only the night before, that uninhabited plains might be reached at no great distance in a s.w. direction, that course was adopted ; and ultimately, after a forced march of 3 days and 2 nights making a wide circuit, they reached the Otjihako wa Motenya utterly exhausted. The missionaries appear to have reached Barmen without further disaster, and Mr. Green dates his letter from the shores of Onondova, the new lake.\*

A letter of Mr. Ch. J. Andersson has also been received, in which he announces his intention of himself starting for the Cunene. He

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\* Mr. Green's courage and skill as a marksman contributed greatly to the repulse of the Ovampo ; and Mr. Hahn's testimony to his services is most cordial and unreserved.—*Ed.*

adds that he is wretchedly equipped, but that rather than lose the season he will start at once.

MR. GALTON, F.R.G.S.—I must express great regret at the tenor of a large part of this account. I quite gather from Mr. Green's letter that he adopted a domineering tone towards the Ovampo, which I believe to have been eminently injudicious, to have been construed by them as a menace, and to have been resented in the way we have heard.

In passing judgment on the conduct of the Ovampo, we must try and place ourselves in their position. Their territory is visited, almost invaded, by a strong party of foreigners, who are judged to be kindred to the Namaqua chiefs from their colour, language, creed, and intermarriages; and the Namaquas are a race of marauders, who have lifted cattle from the very borders of Ovampo land, and are known to be awaiting a favourable opportunity for invading that country. These foreigners are fully armed and dictatorial in their ways; they refuse to give those presents which are well described as taking the place of customs duties in African nations. They show scant courtesy to the king, and they very probably trespass in not a few of the many requirements of a witchcraft ceremonial. Why, if such a thing could be imagined as that 30 or 40 headstrong Englishmen were to make a sudden descent upon the shores of a continental power, at a time when war seemed to impend, professing peace but armed to the teeth and ready to fight, unfurnished with any kind of credentials, violating quarantine laws, setting all authority at naught, and coming for no conceivable purpose except that of making an armed reconnaissance, I presume they would have been treated by the nearest inhabitants or military guard in a not less hostile manner than this exploring party has been by the Ovampo. As to the treachery of which complaint has been made, I do not see that it is proved, for the expedition was treated with little favour. Or, even if it were proved, that it would make the attack much more difficult to excuse. Treachery is not so black a crime in the morale of African nations as it is in our own; we must also recollect that it is a last resort of the weak against the strong, such as the Ovampo suspected they might be before the much dreaded guns of their unwelcome visitors.

Mr. Green remarks that I was imposed upon by Nangoro in the matter of presents; but, on reading his list of gifts, I find I do not deserve the credit of having been so liberal as himself, yet I had the good fortune to conciliate where he had not, and I was able to leave, in peace, the happy country of a noble and a kindly negro race, which has now, for the first time, been confronted and humbled before the arrogant strength of the white man.

MR. MACQUEEN, F.R.G.S.—Mr. Hahn, the missionary's account is chiefly valuable on account of the considerable fresh-water lake that he discovered, and which he places in  $18^{\circ} 45'$  s. lat. and  $17^{\circ} 30'$  e. long., which is probably not incorrect. The lake is fresh water with plenty of fish. In circumference it appears to be about 30 miles, but to the w. no shore could be seen. Nearly in this portion of Africa all the old geographers place a lake. As the dry season was far advanced when Mr. Hahn saw it, it probably never dries up, and may be considered to communicate with the river that joins the Cunene to the n. of Ondonga, the capital of Ovampo, ruled by Nangoro or Nangolo. This chief bears a very bad character amongst all his neighbours to the n. and n.n.e. He treated Mr. Hahn very ill, and attempted to murder him and all his party after they left his capital. But they fortunately made their escape after the loss of some of their party.

The lake in question is situated about 30 or 40 miles n. of the junction of the rivers Omoronda and Omorabondo, which contain little water in the dry season. Both these rivers are mentioned and delineated by Mr. Galton, and Mr. Hahn mentions another river also called Omoronda lying considerably to the e. of the last named Omaronde, and which he says runs e.n.e., and forms

the Tioghe. This is not improbable, as a water-parting seems to run from  $18^{\circ}$  to  $19^{\circ}$  E. long., in this portion of Africa which separates the waters which run into the Atlantic from those that run eastward to the Liambaye or Liambige and the Indian Ocean. Vast copper mines are found about 100 miles E.S.E. of the lake mentioned, and the carriage of the ore forms a great trade to the people of Ovampo.

The intention of the party was to proceed N.E. to a place or chief named Libele, whose abode is to the S. of Bunda in about  $16^{\circ}$  S. lat. and  $21^{\circ}$  E. long. In this portion of Africa snow is stated to be found on high mountains in July and August. In the direction alluded to they expected to reach the Cunene, but which they never could have done, as the meridian of the upper part of that river is in about  $17^{\circ}$  E. long. Their course would have carried them across the Cubango, and its tributaries which form the Chobe, a great feeder of the Liambige. But they durst not venture to proceed from Ovampo in that direction, as at that season of the year water cannot be found for a great distance. Brocheda and Ladislaus, who both visited this district, the former in 1849 and the latter in 1852 and 1853, tell us that this district of Africa between Ovampo and the Cubango, including the great state of Quanhama on the S.W. side of that river, and called also Aimbiri from the name of the chief, is very dry in the dry season of the year, and generally a plain or level tableland with scarcely a stone to be found in it. Copper and iron are most abundant throughout it, and good water is frequently found in very deep holes, the remains of the floods in the rainy season from November to April, when the rains are very heavy. Both Brocheda and Ladislaus mention the great river Liambaye or Liambige running to the eastward, and that the country in that part of its course had been overrun and conquered by the Makololo, or as Brocheda, perhaps by an error of the Portuguese press, calls them, the Makakotto. The population of the portion of Africa here specifically alluded to are represented by traders and travellers who have visited them as extremely rude, ignorant, and barbarous.

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4. *Journal kept during the performance of a Reconnoissance Survey of the South District of the Province of Otago, New Zealand.* By J. TURNBULL THOMSON, F.R.G.S., Chief Surveyor, Otago.

IN the beginning of 1857 Mr. Thomson explored, in successive trips, the southern extremity of New Zealand, travelling on foot over 1500 miles of difficult country, carrying his theodolite and "swag" of clothes on his back, and driving pack horses laden with flour.

The epitome of his results is contained in the following Table.

*Nature of Country reconnoitred between the Waiau and Matuaru Rivers, and the UMBERELLA, EYRE, and TUKITUNO MOUNTAINS.*

	Square miles.		POPULATION.	
Forest land .. ..	570			
Moss and swamp .. ..	108			
Agricultural .. ..	400	Europeans .. ..	253	
Pastoral .. ..	2150	Half-castes .. ..	70	
Barren (mountainous) .. ..	500	Maoris .. ..	119	
Total .. ..	3728	Total .. ..	442	